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ABSTRACT

This chronology highlights milestones for libraries and adult lifelong learning and literacy from 1924-2001, including the following events: William S. Learned's "The American Public Library and the Diffusion of Knowledge" is published (1924); establishment of the ALA (American Library Association) Adult Education Section (1946); the "Great Issues" program adult discussion group launched at ALA (1948); funding of the America Heritage Project (1951); funding of the ALA Office of Adult Education (1952); the ALA Adult Services Division (ASD) established (1957); the Adult Education Act (1966); adoption of the "Library Rights of Adults" (1970); merger of ASD and RSD (Reference Services Division) (1972); White House Conference on Library and Information Services (1979); founding of the National Coalition for Literacy (1981); Adult Services in the Eighties project (1983-1990); Library Literacy Program (1986-1995); ALA Literacy Assembly convenes (1989); White House Conference on Libraries and Information Services (1991); ALA Office for Literacy and Outreach Services changes name (1995); ALA adopts literacy as one of five key action areas (1998); development of a national literacy agenda with focus on the role of libraries (1999); National Literacy Summit (2000); and ALA Standing Committee on Literacy established (2001). Reports on related issues are listed throughout. (Contains 48 references.) (MES)

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Chronology of Milestones for Libraries and Adult Lifelong Learning and Literacy

Prepared by Kathleen de la Peña McCook and Peggy Barber

For the ALA Committee on Literacy
January 2002

1924. **William S. Learned's report to the Carnegie Corporation, *The American Public Library and the Diffusion of Knowledge,* is published.** [a-1]

The American Library Association establishes the Commission on the Library and Adult Education.

1926. **The ALA Commission on the Library and Adult Education issues the report Libraries *and Adult Education.*** [a-2]

The ALA establishes the Board on Library and Adult Education (later the Adult Education Board) with ongoing reports in the *ALA Bulletin.* "Reading with a Purpose" pamphlets begin publication and are issued through 1931. [a-3]

1934. **The Adult Education Board issues an annual report emphasizing liaison with other agencies such as the American Association for Adult Education. John M. Chancellor hired by the American Library Association as an assistant in adult education.**

1938. Alvin Johnson, *The Public Library—A People's University* (New York: American Association for Adult Education, 1938).

1946. **Adult Education Section established within the Public Library Division.**

1948. "Great Issues" program adult discussion group launched at ALA.

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1951. Fund for Adult Education of the Ford Foundation awards ALA $150,000 for the American Heritage Project directed by Grace T. Stevenson, secretary of the Adult Education Board.

1952. Additional Ford Foundation funding used for ALA to create an Office of Adult Education.

1954. Helen H. Lyman, *Adult Education Activities in Public Libraries* (as Helen Lyman Smith) (Chicago: ALA).

1955. Lester Asheim, *Training Needs of Librarians Doing Adult Education Work* (Chicago: ALA).

Library-Community Project at ALA, directed by Ruth Warncke, continues to 1960. Support from the Fund for Adult Education.

1956. *Experimental Projects in Adult Education, Report of the ALA Adult Education Subgrant Project; Twenty Experimental Projects in Adult Education Conducted by Libraries.* (Chicago: ALA, Office for Adult Education).

1957. Adult Services Division (ASD) established as a separate Division within the American Library Association with Eleanor Phinney as Executive Secretary.

1958. Charles H. Hewitt, *Grant Evaluation Study* (Fund for Adult Education, ALA, Office for Adult Education); (Chicago, ALA).

1963. Margaret E. Monroe. *Library Adult Education: The Biography of an Idea* (New York: Scarecrow Press).

Adult Services Division Newsletter launched.

1964. Bernice McDonald, *Literacy Activities and Public Libraries* (Chicago: ALA).

1966. Adult Education Act.

Robert Ellis Lee, *Continuing Education for Adults through the American Public Library 1833-1966* (Chicago: ALA).

1970 "Library Rights of Adults" A Call for Action" adopted and endorsed by ASD and the Reference Services Division (RSD).[a-4]

1972. ASD and RSD merge with Andrew Hansen as executive secretary. *RQ,* RSD quarterly journal, absorbs *ASD Newsletter* and expands coverage of adult services.[a-5]

1973. Helen H. Lyman, *Library Materials in Service to the Adult New Reader* (Chicago: ALA).

1976. Helen H. Lyman, *Reading and the Adult New Reader* (Chicago: ALA).

Alternative Education Programs Section (AEPS) established in the Public Library Association "to promote public library programs and services relating to literacy, adult basic education, continuing education, independent and other learning modes; to stimulate continued professional growth in these special areas; to provide a broad forum for the exchange of current research, strategies, techniques, and activities; and to create an environment role of the library in learning services."

1977. Helen H. Lyman, *Literacy and the Nation's Libraries* (Chicago: ALA).

The Center for the Book in the Library of Congress (Public Law 95-129) established to stimulate public interest in books, reading, and libraries and to encourage the study of books and print culture. The Center for the Book works closely with other organizations to foster understanding of the vital role of books, reading, libraries and literacy in society.

1979. White House Conference on Library and Information Services includes life-long learning as a theme. Resolution on literacy calls for the expansion of literacy programs at the community level, identification of effective adult literacy programs, coordination of library programs with other adult education programs, cooperation among public educational agencies and joint planning.

1981. National Coalition for Literacy founded by ALA. Executive Director, Robert Wedgeworth and Peggy Barber work with the Ad Council, and with the American Association of Advertising Agencies, to launch the National Coalition for Literacy with Jean E. Coleman, Director of the Office for Library Outreach Services.

Lynn E. Birge, *Serving Adult Learners: A Public Library Tradition* (Chicago: ALA).

1983-1990. *Adult Services in the Eighties: Project of the RASD Services to Adults Committee.*

1986- 1995. Library Literacy Program, Title VI, LSCA, over $65 million in grants for literacy programs made to public libraries. [4-6]

1988. Douglas Zweizig, Jane Robbins, Debra Wilcox Johnson, *Libraries and Literacy Education* (Washington, D.C.: U.S. G.P.O.)

1989. ALA Literacy Assembly convenes.

National Partners for Library and Literacy continues work of National Library Week partners working with ALA Public Information Office, coordinated by Peggy Barber.

Bell-Atlantic Family Literacy Project in with ALA Office for Library Outreach Services.

Debra Wilcox Johnson, *Libraries as Partners in Adult Literacy* (U.S.G.P.O.)

PLA Adult Lifelong Learning Section is new name for Alternative Education Programs Section of PLA. Adds the purpose "to advocate the use of library based self-directed study as well as more traditional learning modes. "

1990. *Adult Services: An Enduring Focus for Public Libraries*, ed. Kathleen de la Peña McCook (Heim) and Danny P. Wallace (Chicago: ALA).

Adult Services: A Bibliography and Index. Kathleen de la Peña McCook (Heim) and Harry D. Nuttall.[a-7]

1991. White House Conference on Libraries and Information Services. [a-8]

Deanna B. Marcum and Elizabeth W. Stone, "Literacy: The Library Legacy," *American Libraries* 22 (March 1991): 202-205.

Margaret E. Monroe and Kathleen de la Peña McCook, *Partners for Learning: Public Libraries and Adult Education* (Washington, D.C.: U.S.G.P.O.).

The National Institute for Literacy (NIFL) is created by the National Literacy Act of 1991, when a bipartisan Congressional coalition acted on the literacy field's request for a federal office focused solely on literacy. Senator Paul Simon (Illinois) and Representative Tom Sawyer (Ohio) are co-sponsors.

Early nineties. Family Literacy programs grow in ALA with grants from Bell Atlantic, Viburnum Foundation, Cargill, Inc. Association for Library Service to Children receives Prudential Foundation grant for "Born to Read."

1995. ALA Office for Literacy and Outreach Services –OLOS- (formerly Office for Library Outreach Services) changes name to reflect expanded focus on literacy.[a-9]

"Literacy in Libraries Across America" funded within ALA by the Lila-Wallace Reader's Digest Fund. Includes funds for a Literacy Officer in OLOS.

Literacy Volunteers of America honor ALA with a Leadership Award for "its profound influence over and enduring support of the literacy movement." [a-10]

1996. Gail Spangenberg, *Even Anchors Need Lifelines* (Washington, D.C.: Center for the Book in the Library of Congress). Results of a study supported by ALA, Center for the Book, and Harold McGraw to refocus attention on the important institutional and service roles libraries play in literacy.[a-11]

Barbara A. Humes, *Public Libraries and Community-Based Education: Making the Connection for Life-Long Learning*, National Institute on Postsecondary Education, Libraries and Lifelong Learning.[a-12]

1998. ALA adopts Literacy as one of five key action areas.

The Adult Education and Family Literacy Act (AEFLA) restructures programs previously authorized by the Adult Education Act.

1999. Public Policy Institute, directed by former Illinois Senator, Paul Simon, at Southern Illinois University develops national literacy agenda with focus on the role of libraries. [a-13]

ALA funds full-time Literacy Officer in OLOS.

2000. ALA staff Peggy Barber and Dale Lipschultz participate in the National Literacy Summit sponsored by the National Institute for Literacy.

Leigh S. Estabrook and Edward Lakner, *Literacy Programs in Public Libraries*, Library Research Center, Graduate School of Library and Information Science, University of Illinois). [a-14]

2001. ALA Standing Committee on Literacy is established. Peggy Barber is designated as first Chair.

***Literacy and Libraries: Learning from Case Studies*, ed. GraceAnne A. DeCandido. (Chicago: ALA, OLOS).** [a-15]

The BuildLiteracy.org site is established to answer questions about adult literacy, libraries, and coalitions. Site features tips on coalition building, profiles of existing literacy coalitions, and a menu of literacy coalition activities. [a-16]

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The following works listed alphabetically by author provided information for the above chronology of national milestones documenting the relationship of libraries and adult education and adult literacy. All are recommend reading for essential background in the history of libraries, adult lifelong learning and adult literacy. Additional notes to specific items cited in the chronology follow the alphabetical list of basic resources and are keyed to the chronology.

Basic Background

***Adult Services: An Enduring Focus for Public Libraries*, ed. Kathleen M. Heim and Danny P. Wallace (Chicago: American Library Association, 1990.)**

Lester Asheim, *Training Needs of Librarians Doing Adult Education Work*. (Chicago: ALA, 1955).

Peggy Barber, "Computers, Technology, Books, Yes—But Literacy Must Come First." *American Libraries* 28 (May 1997): 42-43.

Peggy Barber, "The American Library Association's Literacy Initiatives," in *Literacy and Libraries: Learning from Case Studies*, ed. GraceAnn DeCandido (Chicago, American Library Association, Office for Literacy and Outreach Services, 2001), pp. 154-158.

Lynn E. Birge, *Serving Adult Learners: A Public Library Tradition* (Chicago: American Library Association, 1981).

Elizabeth J. Burge, *Adult Learners, Learning and Public Libraries. Library Trends* 31 (Spring 1983).

Jean Ellen Coleman, "Libraries, Learning and Literacy: A Tradition of Involvement," *Public Libraries* 23 (Winter 1984): 108-9.

Cyril O. Houle, "Seven Adult Educational Roles of the Public Library," in *As Much to Learn as to Teach: Essays in Honor of Lester Asheim,* ed. Joel M. Lee and Beth A. Hamilton (Hamden, Conn: Linnet, 1979).

Alvin Johnson, *The Public Library—A People's University* (New York: American Association for Adult Education, 1938).

Debra Wilcox Johnson, *Libraries as Partners in Adult Literacy* (Washington, D.C.: U.S.G.P.O., 1989).

Robert Ellis Lee, *Continuing Education for Adults through the American Public Library 1833-1966* (Chicago: American Library Association, 1966).

Helen H. Lyman, *Adult Education Activities in Public Libraries* (as Helen Lyman Smith) (Chicago: ALA, 1954).

Helen H. Lyman, *Library Materials in Service to the Adult New Reader* (Chicago: ALA, 1973).

Helen H. Lyman, *Reading and the Adult New Reader* (Chicago: ALA, 1976).

Helen H. Lyman, *Literacy and the Nation's Libraries* (Chicago: ALA, 1977).

Kathleen de la Peña McCook (as Kathleen M. Heim), "Adult Services as Reflective of the Changing Role of the Public Library." *RQ* 26 (Winter 1986) 180-187.

Kathleen de la Peña McCook (as Kathleen M. Heim), *Adult Services in the Eighties: Final*

Report Submitted to the RASD Adult Services Committee, March 1990. ERIC ED 316 264.

Kathleen de la Peña McCook (as Kathleen M. Heim), "An Overview of the Adult Services in the Eighties Project," (pp.1-10) and "Adult Services: An Enduring Focus" (pp.11-26) in *Adult Services* ed. By Heim and Wallace (1990).

Kathleen de la Peña McCook "Where Would We Be Without Them? Libraries and Adult Education Activities: 1966-1971" *RQ* 32 (Winter 1992): 245-253.

Kathleen de la Peña McCook and Paula Geist. *Toward a Just and Productive Society: An Analysis of the Recommendations of the White House Conference on Library and Information Services.* (Washington, D.C., National Commission of Libraries and Information Science, 1994).

Kathleen de la Peña McCook and Harry D. Nuttall. *Adult Services: A Bibliography and Index*. 1990. ERIC 320 609.

Bernice McDonald. *Literacy Activities and Public Libraries* (Chicago: ALA, 1964).

Margaret E. Monroe, "The Evolution of Literacy Programs in the Context of the Library," *Library Trends* 35 (Fall 1986).

Margaret E. Monroe and Kathleen de la Peña McCook, *Partners for Learning: Public Libraries and Adult Education* (Washington, D.C.: U.S.G.P.O., 1991).

Gary O. Rolstad, "Literacy Services in Public Libraries" (pp. 245-265) in *Adult Services* ed.by Heim and Wallace, 1990.

Ester Gottlieb Smith, *Libraries in Literacy* v.1 (Washington, D.C. U.S. D.O.E., Office of Library and Learning Technologies, 1981).

Carole Talan, *Founding and Funding Family Literacy Programs* (New York: Neal-Schuman, 1999).

Connie Van Fleet, "Lifelong Learning Theory and the Provision of Adult Services," (pp. 166-211) in *Adult Services* ed. By Heim and Wallace, 1990.

Connie Van Fleet and Douglas Raber, "The Public Library as a Social/Cultural Institution: Alternative Perspectives and Changing Contexts (pp. 456- 500) in *Adult Services* ed. By Heim and Wallace, 1990).

Danny P. Wallace, "The Character of Adult Services in the Eighties," (pp. 27-165.) in *Adult Services* ed. By Heim and Wallace, 1990.

Ruth Warncke, *Library-Community Project Report, 1955-1960* (Chicago: ALA, prepared for the Fund for Adult Education, 1960).

Ruth Warncke, *Analyzing Your Community: Basis for Building Library Service*. ERIC ED 105881. 1974.

Douglas Zweizig, Jane Robbins, Debra Wilcox Johnson, *Libraries and Literacy Education* (Washington, D.C.: U.S. G.P.O, 1988).

Specific Sources

[a-1] William S. Learned, *The American Public Library and the Diffusion of Knowledge* (New York: Harcourt, 1924).

[a-2] American Library Association, Commission on the Library and Adult Education, *Libraries and Adult Education* (Chicago: American Library Association, 1926).

[a-3] For additional background on the Adult Education Board meetings and minutes through its history see archives of the American Library Association under Reference and User Services Association. 30/0/0. Accessed October 17, 2001.
http://www.library.uiuc.edu/ahx/ala/alacard.asp?RG=30&SG=0&RS=0

[a-4] "Library Rights of Adults: A Call to Action," *ASD Newsletter* 8 (Fall, 1970): 2-3.

[a-5] Andrew Hansen, " RASD: A Backward Look into the Future." *RQ* 25 (Fall 1985): 13-18.

[a-6] The Library Literacy Program (LSCA Title VI) was funded from 1986-1995. For 1986 the report is titled, *Library Literacy Program: Abstracts of Funded Projects, 1986.* For 1987-1993 the report is called *Library Literacy Program: Analysis of Funded Projects.* These reports were issued as serials the year after the cover date by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Educational Research and Improvement. From 1989-1993 Barbara A. Humes and Carol Cameron Lyons are authors. For 1994 and 1995 reports were not published as separate titles but included in the *Bowker Annual* due to the reauthorization of LSCA as LSTA. For 1994 see *The Bowker Annual, 1995,* pp. 312-326; for 1995 see *The Bowker Annual, 1996,* pp. 317-331. (ack. Ellen Sweet, Government Documents Librarian, National Library of Education, tracked the chronology of these reports, June 29, 2001 after much help from government documents librarians at the University of Florida, Mary Gay Anderson and Paige Harper).

[a-7] Kathleen de la Peña McCook and Harry D. Nuttall. *Adult Services: A Bibliography and Index.* 1990. ERIC 320 609.

[a-8] *Information 2000. Library and Information Services for the 21st Century. Summary Report of the White House Conference on Library and Information Services* (2nd, Washington, D.C., July 9-13, 1991).

[a-9] Kate Lippincott, Kathleen de la Peña McCook, and Sara M. Taffae, *25 Years of Outreach: A Bibliographic Time Line of the American Library Association, Office for Literacy and Outreach Services,"* 1996. ERIC ED 396 755.

[a-10] Barber, p. 157.

[a-11] Gail Spangenberg, *Even Anchors Need Lifelines.* (Washington, D.C. Center for the Book in the Library of Congress, 1996).

[a-12] Barbara A. Humes, *Public Libraries and Community-Based Education: Making the Connection for Lifelong Learning.* (Washington, D.C.: GPO, National Institute on Postsecondary Education, Libraries and Lifelong Learning, 1996).

[a-13] Public Policy Institute. "National Leaders in Literacy Effort Map Agenda to Assure all Americans Possess Basic Skills for Good Jobs." Accessed October 17, 2001.

http://www.siu.edu/~ppi/Publications/largescreen/larpress/press-literacy.html

[a-14] Estabrook and Lakner.

[a-15] DeCandido.

[a-16] BuildLiteracy.org developed by ALA and the National Alliance of Urban Literacy Councils in partnership with the National Institute for Literacy. Administered by ALA OLOS. Accessed October 17, 2001. http://www.buildliteracy.org/index.htm

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